



The Lincoln Kinsman

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The President's Uncle Josiah

Abraham Lincoln's father, Thomas, had two brothers—Mordecai and Josiah—both his seniors. The last issue of *The Kinsman* discussed the family of Mordecai Lincoln and emphasized the importance of his given name as a possible key for discovering the surname of the wife of Abraham Lincoln's first American progenitor, Samuel Lincoln.

The name Josiah also has a very important place in Lincoln genealogy, as it may be the key name which will eventually allow us to establish with certainty just who was the paternal grandmother of Abraham Lincoln. While it is known that Bersheba was the given name of grandfather Abraham Lincoln's widow, whether or not she was his first wife is not definitely known, neither is her surname positively identified.

It is apparent that the name Josiah evidently did not originate in the Lincoln family as it appears for the first time in the sixth generation. There were no Josiahs in the Herring

family which is supposed to have intermarried with the Lincolns and from which family Bersheba is said to have come. There is, however, a Josiah Boone and also a Josiah Davidson, both contemporary with the pioneer John Lincoln in Rockingham County, Virginia, and both were living adjacent to him at the time John's son Abraham, married in 1770. Evidently the name Josiah came from one of these two families.

Surveyor's Chain Carrier

Josiah Lincoln was born in the Shenandoah Valley in either 1773 or 1774. At the time his parents moved to Kentucky he must have been about 9 years of age. The family settled at Hughes Station near Louisville and it is here that we are first introduced to Josiah Lincoln in the public records. In the surveyor's office at Louisville, Kentucky, there is an old record which we print here verbatim which mentions Josiah Lincoln along with his father's cousin, Hananiah Lincoln, serving as chain carriers in a survey

which was made on May 7, 1785. Josiah at this time would be about 12 years old and could very well serve in the capacity for which he was chosen. A copy of the survey follows:

"Surveyed for Abraham Linkhorn 400 acres of Land in Jefferson County by Virtue of a Treasury Warrant no. 3334 on the Fork of Floyds Fork now called the Long Run beginning about two miles up the said Fork from the mouth of a Fork of the same formerly called Tice Fork at a Sugar Tree standing on the side of the same marked SDB and extending thence East 300 poles to a Poplar and Sugar Tree North 213 1/3 poles to a Beech and Dogwood West 300 poles to a White Oak and Hickory South 213 1/3 poles to the Beginning May 7th 1785 William Shanon D. S. J. C.

"William May S. J. C.

"Hananiah Lincoln and

"Josiah Lincoln C. C.

"Abraham Linkhorn Marhew"

This survey was made just one year before Josiah's father was massacred by the Indians on this very same farm which was located at a point where the counties of Jefferson, Oldham and Shelby Counties meet. President Lincoln was quite familiar with the story of his grandfather's death at the hands of the Indians and claimed that when the red men attempted to take the life of his own father, Thomas, then a small boy, Mordecai shot the Indian and Josiah ran to the fort some distance away and aroused the men in the settlement. Evidently Josiah was working with his father in the field at the time of the massacre.

The Widow Lincoln and her five orphan children moved from the site of the massacre at Hughes Station in

Jefferson County to Washington County where we often find the name of Josiah Lincoln mentioned in the public records. In 1792 when Kentucky became a state in the Union, the name of Bersheba Lincoln appeared in the tax commissioners book under the date of October 17. She entered on the list as a member of her family, one boy between 16 and 21 years of age who was presumably Josiah. In 1797 under Josiah's own name is the citation one horse for taxation. In 1799 Josiah listed two horses for taxation.

As early as 1796 he was taking an active part in the affairs of the community and his name is signed to a petition to close a road which was no longer used by the public. "It being seldom traveled by wagons", however the petition suggested that it be "sufficiently cleared for a bridal way".

The Barlow Family

At the time the Widow Lincoln moved her family from Jefferson County to Washington County in 1786, there was living close by, the family of Christopher Barlow. The widow brought with her such personal property as her deceased husband had left at the time of his death. The Nelson County Court, then having jurisdiction over that section of the territory, including the widow's home, later became Washington County, appointed Christopher Barlow as one of the three men to appraise the estate of the late Abraham Lincoln, the pioneer. Barlow was appointed an administrator on October 14, 1788 and brought in his report in conjunction with the other commissions on March 10, 1789.

There were many Barlows in Washington County contemporary with Christopher, but it is not known just how they were related to him. The Nelson County records also make known the fact that Samuel Barlow married Elizabeth Blackburn on April 17, 1788 and the following July 18, 1788 he made his will mentioning his wife Elizabeth and a brother Henry Barlow. Henry married Jane, daughter of James Marshall.

There was an Ambrose Barlow living near the Widow Lincoln as early as June 15, 1791, when we find a road order in the Nelson County Court mentioning their names.

"Ordered that the road from the Beech Fork at Richard Parker's to the Widow Grundy's be divided as follows: that Coleman Brown be appointed overseer of the road from the Beech Fork at Parker's to the foot of the hill where the road leaves Parker's Run, and that all the laboring tithables on the waters of Hardin's Creek that all the workers under Graves Worphor the late overseer, also all the tithables on the waters of Cartright's Creek and the Beech Fork below the big narrows and McCullens Lick do assist in keeping the said road in repair, and that Matthew Penn be appointed overseer of the road from where Coleman Brown ends to the Widow Grundy's and that all tithables on the west side of Cartright's Creek that worked under the said Graves Worphor also the hands that are allotted to Benj. Hardin beginning at John Wallers thence to Widow Grundy's line passing Thomas Turnham, William Hays, Ambrose Barlow's John Mays to the Widow Lin-

coln's and down the branch where the Widow Lincoln lives on the Beech Fork, then down the Beech Fork to McCullens Lick thence to the big narrows and that all tithables assigned said Penn assist in keeping said road in repair."

A more definite location of the Barlow home is shown by the following excerpt from a road report made in July 1797 and designating a road leading from "Joshua Ferguson's Mill on Beech Fork to the Court House."

"Begin at Mill, Zach Hubbs on left, Christopher Barlow on left, Lewis Barlow on left, thence to the meeting house, thence onto the road at Widow Litsey's leading to Washington County Court House.

"James Wilson, James Weathers, Christopher Barlow"

Still another early road order mentions a John Barlow, not only do we have Christopher, Samuel, Henry, Ambrose, Lewis and John Barlow mentioned in these early records, but the Nelson County marriage register also mentions a Michael Barlow who married Rebecca Pyburn on December 23, 1789 and an Elizabeth Barlow (possibly Samuel Barlow's widow), who married Adam Grant on April 2, 1792. Another early marriage in the adjacent county of Mercer was solemnized on November 7, 1792, between Betsy Barlow and William Hall.

To return to Christopher Barlow, the head of the family, in which we have the most interest, it is evident that the children of Christopher and the Widow Lincoln grew up together. Christopher and his wife, Barbara Barlow had at least five children who

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SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN FORMER ISSUES OF THE LINCOLN KINSMAN

1. The Colonial Lincolns, 2. The Unknown Hanks Ancestry, 3. The Herrings of Virginia, 4. Five Shipley Sisters, 5. The Todd Family, 6. Bush Family Documents, 7. Early 19th Century Lincolns, 8. Kentucky Archives, 9. Abraham Lincoln's Father, 10. Hon. Robert Todd Lincoln, 11. James Wright Sparrow, 12. Uncle Mordecai Lincoln, 13. Thomas (Tad) Lincoln, 14. The Tennessee Lincolns, 15. The Lincolns of Hingham, 16. The Richard Berry Family, 17. Southern Branch of the Hankses, 18. The Lincolns of England, 19. Synopsis Life of Lincoln, 20. Lincoln's Letters to His Wife, 21. Correspondence With Kinsmen, 22. A Hanks Family Tree, 23. New Jersey Lincolns, 24. The Pennsylvania Lincolns, 25. Nottoway River Hanks Colony, 26. Relatives of Lincoln's Wife, 27. The Lincolns' Kentucky Neighbors, 28. The Lincolns of Virginia, 29. Roanoke River Hanks Colony, 30. Lincoln's Mythical Childhood Homes, 31. The Paternity Myth, 32. The Shiftless Father Myth, 33. The Maternal Lineage Myth, 34. The Poverty Myth, 35. The Ann Rutledge Myth, 36. The Matrimony Myth, 37. The New England Hankses, 38. The Family of the President's Uncle Mordecai.

are named in Christopher's will dated June 5, 1837 and probated June 20, 1837. Along with his wife Barbara, he mentioned one son Jacob M. Barlow and four daughters. Rosannah Barlow married a man named Keeling. Elizabeth's husband's name was Spencer. Jerusha was united in marriage to Peter Adams on November 26, 1789 and the other daughter Catherine Barlow on February 26, 1801 married the Widow Lincoln's son, Josiah. A copy of the minister's official marriage returns for Washington County during the year 1801, contains the following certificate:

"I hereby certify that a marriage was solemnized by me, between Josiah Lincoln and Catherine Barlow on the 26th inst. according to the rites and ceremonies of the Christian Church given under my hand. Feb. 27
"Thomas Kyle"

There were other Barlow marriages which occurred in Washington County which might be mentioned. As early as February 1, 1796 one of Christopher's daughters, Eliza Barlow, married Robert Brumfield, and she must have passed away before Christopher made his will on February 21, 1801. Three weeks before Josiah married "Caty" Barlow, Josiah's sister, Ann, married William Brumfield. The Brumfields already having intermarried with the Barlows. Cornelius Barlow in 1796 married Katy Sibert and later on, on September 7, 1807, John Sibert married Sarah Barlow.

Kentucky Home

Not long after Josiah's wedding we find his name on a marriage paper in which he joins with his brother, Thomas, as a witness to a certificate approving the nuptials of Peter Sibert and Mary Bridges. A copy of this certificate is worth copying, as this is one instance where the signatures of Abraham Lincoln's father and Josiah Lincoln are plainly written on the same document.

"This is to Sartify that the matter now Depending Between my Daughter and Peter Sibert is well approved of by me as Witness my hand and seall this 16th of August 1801

"Keathren Bridges, Seall

"Test.

"Josiah Lincoln

"Thomas Lincoln"

There is some evidence that Josiah, like his brother Thomas, learned the carpenter's trade. On May 7, 1804 he attended the Ignatius Elder sale and some of the purchases of Josiah and his neighbors with the prices noted in pounds, shillings and pence are here presented.

"Ignatius Elder Sale—May 7, 1804

"Josiah Lincoln—plains 1-6-0

"Mordecai Lincoln—1 joiner, 1 auger, 1 chisel 0-7-6

"Jesse Head—1 saw & Whetstone 0-15-0

"Josiah Lincoln—1 fore plain 0-1-6

"Jesse Head—4 plain bits 0-4-0

"Jesse Head—box old iron 0-8-0

"Jesse Head—1 hatchet 0-3-6

"Richard Berry—1 kettle 1-16-0

"Josiah Lincoln—1 pott 0-13-0

"Francis Berry—dictionary 16."

It will be observed that Josiah's brother, Mordecai made some purchases. Jesse Head, the minister who married Abraham Lincoln's parents, acquired a few items. Richard Berry, guardian of Nancy Hanks, bought a kettle which may have been used to prepare part of the Lincoln-Hanks wedding dinner, and Richard's brother, Francis bought a dictionary. Nancy is said to have been living in the Francis Berry home at this time. Josiah acquired a farm in the Beech Fork community and adjacent to land owned by his brother Mordecai. This tract of land Josiah bought from Mathew Walton. The deed is dated on October 23, 1809 and recorded in Washington County deed book, C. page 441. The property is noted as lying between the lands of Mordecai Lincoln and Robert Brumfield. Other adjacent property holders mentioned

were Cornelius Barlow and John Kelly. The tract contained sixty acres. The surveyors lines which are indicated in the deed follow:

"Beginning at a stone in Mordecai Lincoln's field, North 70° West 134 poles to Cornelius Barlow's with his line South 30° East 47 poles corner to Robert Brumfield's line, with Brumfield's line 176 poles to corner of Brumfield and John Kelly, North 60° East—passing Kelly's corner at 4 poles in all 30 poles, North 91½° East 107½ poles."

The extent of Josiah's land holdings in Kentucky is summarized in the commissioners tax books for Washington County, when he enters for record in 1811, 60 acres of land in Washington County and 960 acres of land on the Kentucky. This last tract he had apparently inherited from his father who is known upon coming to Kentucky to have entered the land on the Kentucky River.

It was not long, however, after the tax commission for Washington County had entered Josiah's taxable property on the records before Josiah decided to migrate to the West and on October 5, 1811 he sold to John Kelly one of his neighbors and the same man who bought his brother Mordecai's place, the sixty acre tract and his wife signs with him in releasing the property. The exact date of the migration of the family to Indiana is not known, but it probably occurred sometime before the planting season in 1812, about four years before Abraham Lincoln's father moved to the Hoosier state.

Very little is known about Josiah during the Kentucky days, but one man, Judge Henry Pirtle, who was

born in Washington County, wrote: "I knew Mordecai and Josiah Lincoln intimately. They were excellent men, plain, moderately educated, candid in their manners and intercourse and looked upon as honorable as any men I have ever heard of."

Hoosier Home

Josiah and Catherine Barlow Lincoln sold their Kentucky land and apparently set out immediately for Indiana. Why they had selected this identical spot where they entered their land is not known, but it is very likely that other Washington County families had already settled there. There was already in Harrison County by 1820 several families of Boones, Winters, Berrys, Harrisons, Crawfords, Mitchells, etc., names all familiar to Josiah Lincoln and his wife.

In the records of the General Land Office at Washington it is recorded that Jesse Hollowell entered one-quarter of section 12, township 2 South, Range 2 East, District of Jeffersonville, State of Indiana, which comprised 160 acres. The date of entrance was December 15, 1810. This tract of land was patented to Josiah Lincoln, assignee, May 8, 1815. It is situated in the extreme northern part of Harrison County about 20 miles from Corydon and a short distance from where Milltown is located. The property was five miles west of the famous Marengo Cave. Certainly Josiah Lincoln selected property that he felt would be quite valuable inasmuch as it was so close to the prosperous seat of government in the territory which was to come into the Union as a state. Very little information is available about Josiah Lincoln during his Indiana residence.

Abraham Lincoln himself knew very little about his Uncle Josiah, as the correspondence which he carried on with relatives reveals. On April 2, 1848 he wrote to David Lincoln as follows:

"Uncle Josiah, farther back than my recollection, went from Kentucky to Blue River in Indiana, I have not heard from him in a great many years, and whether he is still living I cannot say. My recollection of what I have heard is that he has several daughters and only one son, Thomas—their post-office is 'Coryden, Harrison County, Indiana.'"

Still later on, April 1, 1854, he wrote to Jesse Lincoln, from which letter these excerpts are made:

"I often saw Uncle Mordecai, and Uncle Josiah but once in my life; but I never resided near either of them. Uncle Mordecai died in 1831 or 2, in Hancock County, Illinois, where his children had also removed, and still reside, as I understand. Whether Uncle Josiah is dead or living, I cannot tell, not having heard from him for more than twenty years. When I last heard of him he was living on Big Blue River, in Indiana (Harrison Co., I think), and where he had resided ever since before the beginning of my recollection."

J. L. Summers, a few years ago, gave this testimony:

"I am 83 years old and was born and reared in Milltown and immediate vicinity right in the midst of the Lincoln Settlement. Josiah Lincoln in 1813 came from Washington county, Kentucky, came up by way of Corydon and settled in what is now Blue River township, Harrison county, a second son, Jacob, was born.

Later four daughters were born, one of whom married Isom Denton, another married John Briscoe, another married John Crutchfield, and the fourth married a man named Sullenger, who went West and became estranged to the family. The youngest son, Jacob, married Martha Gibbs of Crawford county, a sister of the well-known William Gibbs, deceased. Jacob lived in Blue River township until the rebellion, then with his family went to Missouri. With this Jacob Lincoln I was personally acquainted and many times talked with him and learned much about the family, he being a blood cousin to the President. On one occasion he told me the story of his father exchanging horses with his uncle Thomas, the horse his father got in the exchange became very valuable and that he worked the horse many days on his father's farm. He said he heard his father tell many times where he got the horse, this alone would seem to be sufficient evidence."

The administrators of the estate of Josiah Lincoln were appointed sometime before September 19, 1835, but the exact date of Josiah's death is not known. John Crutchfield and John Briscoe, the administrators, appointed Peter Byerly and George Huss to appraise the estate.

Josiah's Family

It has been noted that Josiah and his wife, Catherine Barlow had six children, two boys and four girls. J. L. Summers in his reminiscences was somewhat confused about the birth places of the children and their ages, but they are here listed chronologically as indicated by Josiah's descendants. They are in order: Bar-

bara, Thomas, Elizabeth, Nancy, Jacob and Catherine. The first four children were born in Kentucky and the last two were born in Indiana.

Barbara Lincoln

The oldest child, Barbara was born about 1802 and was married by Isom Given to John Crutchfield on November 4, 1819 in Harrison County.

Thomas Lincoln

This son evidently named for President Lincoln's father was born in 1806 in Kentucky, the same year that his Uncle Thomas married Nancy Hanks. In 1825 he married Sarah, daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Bullington) Weathers. Thomas and Sarah had nine children, Rachel, Benjamin, Mordecai, Jacob, Washington, Warden, Joseph, William and James.

Thomas Lincoln purchased his brother's and sister's rights in the home farm and resided there. He died in Harrison County, January 18, 1892. The families of their children are named in the following paragraphs:

Rachel, 1827-1908, Married Samuel Ott. There were ten children born to them: Amanda, Sarah, Henry, John, Mary, Joseph, Harriet, Hester, George and Florence.

Benjamin, 1830-1920, Married Angeline, daughter of Shird Burton. Their children were: Sarah, 1855-1886; Rachel, 1858-1885; Thomas, 1860-1900; Mary, 1862-1899; George-Washington, 1865-?; Hester, 1869-?; Margaret, 1873-?; Eva, 1875-?.

Mordecai, 1832-1911, Married Mary-Elizabeth, daughter of James Spencer. Their children were: James-Thomas, 1855-?; Major-Wetherford, 1858-?; Rachel-Elizabeth, 1860-1902; Sarah-Jane, 1862-1863; Martha-Ann, 1863-?; William-Sherman, 1865-?;

Joseph-David, 1867-? Melissa-Etta, 1870-?; Mary-Ellen, 1872-?; Harriet-Eveline, 1874-?; Amanda-Emeline, 1878-?; Altha-May, 1880-?.

Jacob, 1834-?, Married Elizabeth Hupp. There were children but only one reported. George-Thomas, ?-?.

Washington, 1835-1915, Married Deborah, daughter of William and Matilda Denton. Their children were: William-Thomas, 1863-?; Mary-Ann, 1864-1905; Joseph, 1865-1866; Margaret, 1867-?; Zeroda, 1869-1896; Alice, 1871-?; Ethel, 1885-1912; John-Clarence, 1890-?; Charlotte-Mabel, 1892-?.

Warden, 1841-?, Married Rachel-Ann, daughter of John and Catherine Hurbough. Their children were: Catharine, 1867-1887; Henry-Philip, 1869-?; Charles, 1871-?; William, 1876-?; Willard-Emmanuel, 1879-?; Lelia, 1883-?; Frank-Abraham, 1886-?; Florence-Mary, 1889-?; Edward, 1891-?.

Joseph, 1842-?, Married Melissa, daughter of James and Mary-Flora Daugherty. Their children were: Carrie, 1873-?; James F., 1878-?.

William, ?-?, Married and had one son, but no information about him or his wife is available.

James, 1848-?, Married Harriet-Ann, daughter of William-Linley and Sarah Lovisa Elliott. Their children were: Minerva, 1872-?; Mahulda, 1874-?; Lawrence, 1876-?; Ralph-Prosser, 1880-?; Sophia-Opal, 1883-?; Nathan-Harrison, 1885-?; Amanda-Stella, 1887-?; Daisy-Maude, 1889-?; Edgar-Thomas, 1891-?.

Elizabeth Lincoln

The second daughter of Josiah and Catherine was born about 1809. A

marriage register of Harrison County gives the date of Elizabeth's marriage to Isom Denton as of July 17, 1827.

Nancy Lincoln

Josiah and Catherine may have named this daughter for Abraham Lincoln's mother, as the first son had been named for Abraham's father. Nancy Lincoln was born March 2, 1810 and was married March 13, 1827 to John Briscoe. They had six children, three of them dying in childhood. Then the oldest daughter Lettie Ann married Jonathan Cole. Their only son, Anthony Wayne married Margaret Jane Soppenfield and another son, Francis Marion married Sallie Totton.

Jacob Lincoln

Jacob Lincoln was Josiah's second son and he was born in Harrison County on July 16, 1815. He married Martha Gibbs on November 20, 1839 and late in life moved to Wayne County, Missouri where he died on August 10, 1889. His wife, who was born January 9, 1820 died in Harrison County, Indiana sometime after 1865.

There were eleven children born to Jacob and Martha; Mary, 1840-1885; Thomas, 1842-?; William, 1844-?; James Washington, 1846-1896; Elizabeth, 1848-?; Jonathan-Jones, 1850-?; Joseph, 1852-?; Matilda, 1857-1884; Katherine, 1860-?; Charles, 1862-?; Rosanna, 1865-1886.

Katherine Lincoln

The youngest child of Josiah and Catherine Lincoln was named for her mother, and was born about 1817 in Harrison County. On December 28, 1836 a license was issued for her marriage to John Sullenger. Little is known of their descendents.